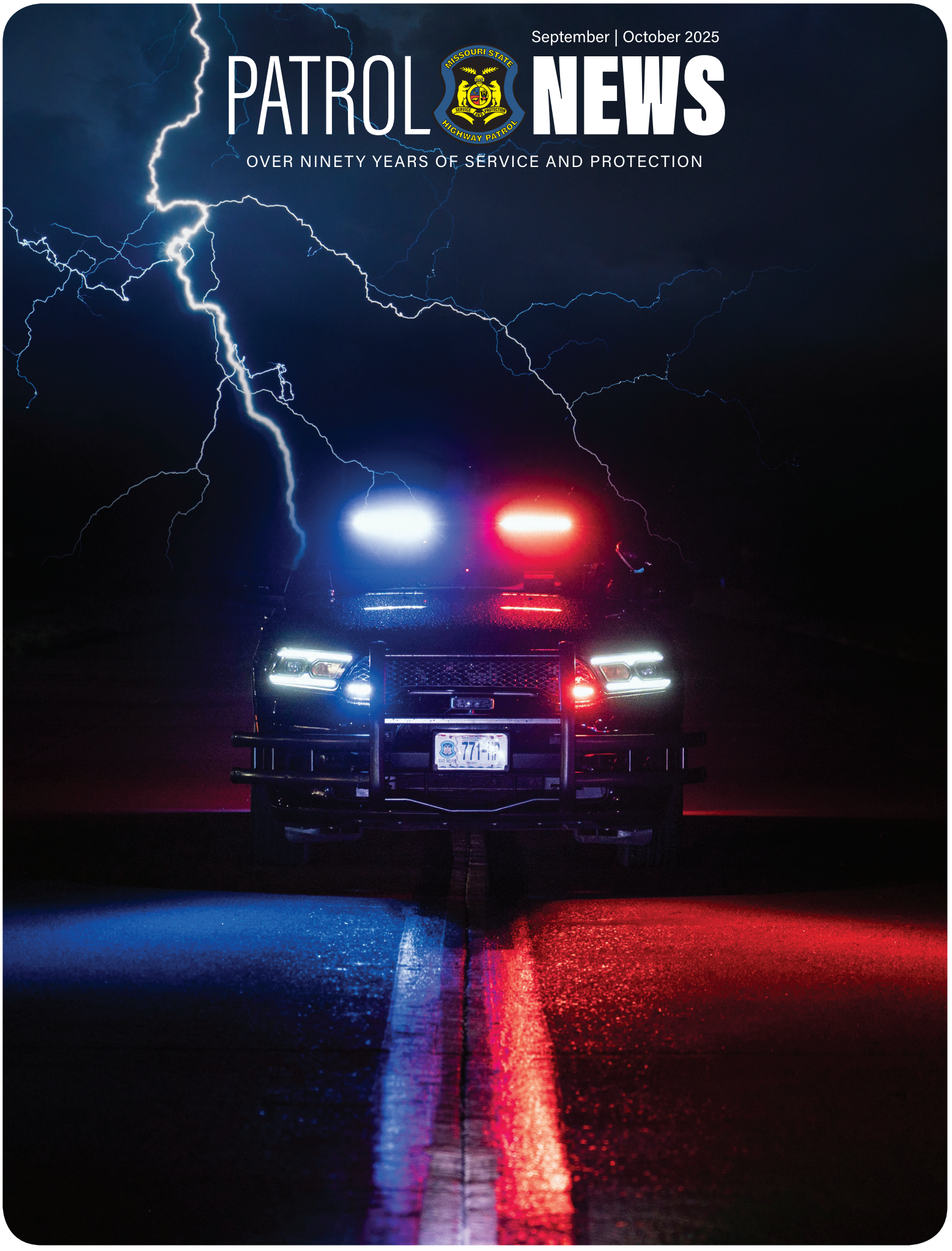
September | October 2025

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION



from the STAFF

Major Justin L. McCullough
Field Operations Bureau

FROM TRADITION TO TRANSFORMATION: THE PATROL'S BOLD LEAP INTO THE FUTURE

For decades, the Missouri State Highway Patrol has stood as a symbol of integrity, discipline, and service. Rooted in tradition yet driven by innovation, the agency has always adapted to meet the needs of Missouri's citizens. But the last eight months have marked a seismic shift—one that positions the Patrol as a premier law enforcement agency in the nation.

Although the list of advancements the agency has experienced over the last several months has been vast, none have been more impactful to enforcing the laws on Missouri's roadways than the implementation of Tactical Vehicle Intervention (TVI). With the rollout of TVI, troopers are now equipped with enhanced training and tools to safely and effectively neutralize high-risk pursuits. These changes reflect a commitment to public safety and officer readiness in the face of evolving threats.

Of course, who could miss the unmistakable roar of the new Ford Mustang that was recently assigned in the field? These high-performance vehicles aren't just eye-catching—as we broaden their footprint statewide, they are going to be strategic assets for our agency. These new cars, coupled with ghost markings on a portion of our utility vehicles, work to solidify the Patrol's fleet among the best in the nation. The work done by our Fleet and Facilities Division to broaden our already impressive lineup of patrol cars in record time speaks to our agency's collective leap into the future.

Since Governor Kehoe's creation of Operation Relentless Pursuit (ORP), the Patrol and various law enforcement agencies across the state have cleared over 1,100 warrants. Our officers and civilian analysts have worked tirelessly since the inception of ORP to take some of the worst criminals in our state to jail, thereby doing our part to ensure Missouri is a staple for law and order.

The recruiting message has been clear and bold: "Do you have what it takes to work for the Missouri State Highway Patrol?" From dive teams to crime labs, road trooper to criminal analysts, the agency offers career paths that are designed to appeal to those who want a challenging, yet very rewarding career—with each position being vital to the mission.

These sweeping changes are more than upgrades—they're a declaration. The Missouri State Highway Patrol is not just keeping pace with modern law enforcement; it's setting the standard. With enhanced capabilities, better compensation, and a renewed focus on recruitment and retention, the future is now, and I am excited to be a part of the next chapter of the agency.

CELEBRATING OVER 59 YEARS OF NEWS
PATROL NEWS
MIKE KEHOE, GOVERNOR
State of Missouri

MARK S. JAMES
Department of Public Safety

MICHAEL A. TURNER, SUPERINTENDENT
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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

September | October 2025

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

Volume 60 ▪ Number 2

ON THE COVER

A stormy night set the stage as photographer Rachel Hays (Q/PIED) documented the launch of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's new STORM team. See pages 10-11 for more information about the STORM initiative.

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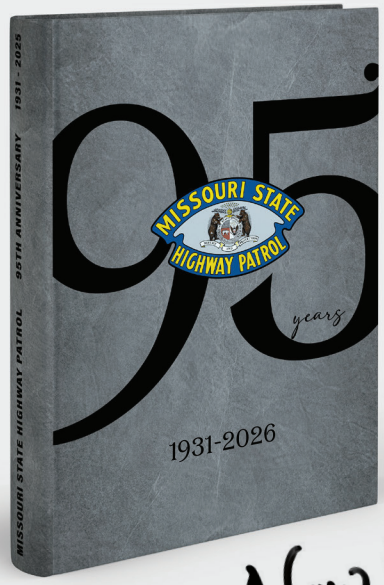
CELEBRATING 95 years OF SERVICE & PROTECTION

1931 - 2026

Reserve Your Piece of History Today!

Celebrate the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 95th anniversary with a keepsake yearbook.

- Full color photos of current and retired agency personnel
- In-Memoriam tribute to fallen troopers
- History of the Patrol
- Hundreds of photographs of the men and women of MSHP
- Special stories from agency members, past and present
- 9x12, Leatherette Hardcover, (leather collector's edition & personalization available)



Order Now!

WE NEED YOU!

These are your memories! Help us by sending in your stories and photos. Action shots, group photos, history, fun memories - we want to hear from you. All photos should include a brief caption including who, what, when and where. Send any stories and photos for consideration to the MSHP Yearbook Committee at: MSHPbook@acclaimpress.com.

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Missouri State Highway Patrol 95th Anniversary Yearbook	Qty	Price	Total
Deluxe Edition		$59.95	
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Cpl. Trent Beeson (E) and K9 Bolt are pictured.

K9 BOLT RETIRES!

Congratulations to K9 Bolt on his retirement on August 1, 2025! Corporal Trent S. Beeson (E) and K9 Bolt started training in September 2023 and began working the road in November 2023. Some highlights from K9 Bolt's career include: the alert to a vehicle containing a hidden compartment which led to the seizure of $111,000, the seizure of 3.5 ounces of liquid methamphetamine, and the seizure of 1.5 pounds of methamphetamine. One of K9 Bolt's tracks led to capture of a suspect who stole a police car and had fled on foot. Cpl. Beeson and K9 Bolt had over 100 calls together from November 2023 until his retirement.

K9 Bolt awaits his next command.

#Who's a Good BOY?

Congratulations ON YOUR RETIREMENT

For your years of dedicated service, loyalty, and selfless giving, we thank you.

STEPHEN A. COATS
Lieutenant
Troop A
Retired August 1, 2025
29 years, 1 mo. of dedicated service

LARRY FOWLER
Stores/Warehouse Asst.
Q/BPD
Retired August 1, 2025
18 years, 9 mo. of dedicated service

DENNIS W. MCCORMICK
Trooper
Q/GD
Retired August 1, 2025
22 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service

RONDA K. SHOUSH
Lead Admin. Support Asst.
Troop B
Retired August 1, 2025
25 years of dedicated service

DAVID A. FLANNIGAN
Lieutenant Colonel
Retired September 1, 2025
32 years, 8 mo. of dedicated service

GARA N. HOWARD
Captain
Q/CJIS
Retired September 1, 2025
27 years, 7 mo. of dedicated service

DORINE P. JOHNSON
Driver Examiner
Troop C
Retired September 1, 2025
7 years, 8 mo. of dedicated service

SHANE R. MONK
Sergeant
Troop D
Retired September 1, 2025
29 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service

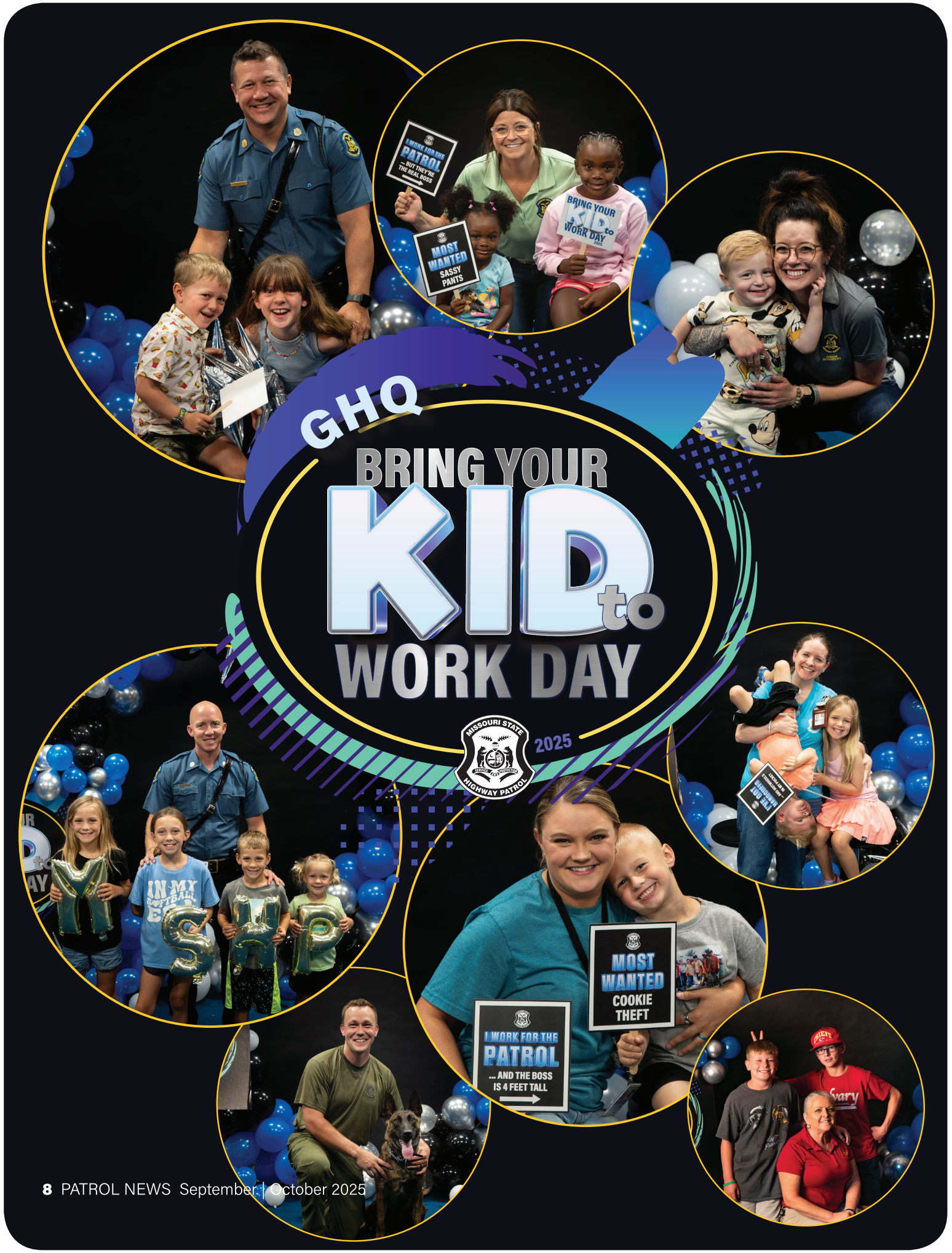
KEVIN C. MORRIS
Sergeant
Troop D
Retired September 1, 2025
22 years, 10 mo. of dedicated service

JAMES H. MULLINS
Driver Examiner
Troop C
Retired September 1, 2025
12 years, 9 mo. of dedicated service

JOSEPH A. PITHAN JR.
Corporal
Q/GD
Retired September 1, 2025
28 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service

MARK B. RICHARDSON
Sergeant
Troop H
Retired September 1, 2025
31 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service

JOHN E. WILSON
Maint/Grnds Suprv.
Troop E
Retired September 1, 2025
10 years, 9 mo. of dedicated service


GHQ
BRING YOUR
KID to
WORK DAY
MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
2025
I WORK FOR THE PATROL
... BUT THEY'RE THE REAL BOSS
MOST WANTED
SASSY PANTS
BRING YOUR KID to WORK DAY
2025
MOST WANTED
COOKIE THEFT
I WORK FOR THE PATROL
... AND THE BOSS IS 4 FEET TALL

WHAT IS STORM?

By Holly C. Hyde (Q/PIED)

On September 1, 2025, Colonel Michael A. Turner announced the launch of the Strategic Traffic Operations and Rapid Mobilization (STORM) team—a new unit of the Missouri State Highway Patrol created to bring swift, targeted action against both dangerous driving and criminal activity.

Lieutenant Steven B. Johnson (Q/FOB), who oversees the program, describes STORM as "a versatile and powerful unit" built from the combined expertise of 23 specially trained troopers. Members include canine handlers, impaired-driving enforcement officers, hazardous-moving specialists, interdiction experts, and motorcycle officers. Backed by the Patrol's Aircraft Division, the team is equipped to respond quickly and effectively wherever they're needed.

The first major deployment came on September 16, 2025, in Jackson County. Ten members of the STORM team, supported by aircraft, focused on reckless driving and drug-related offenses. The results were immediate and measurable:

- 72 Traffic Stops
- 89 Warnings
- 5 Speed Citations
- 14 Hazardous Moving Citations
- 27 Non-Moving Citations
- 18 Misdemeanor Arrests
- 12 Felony Arrests
- 1 Firearm Seized

Looking ahead, STORM will be deployed statewide, concentrating on high-crash corridors, dangerous driving behaviors, and areas where criminal activity is prevalent. The team will also assist local agencies when needed, including incidents such as illegal street takeovers.

“I believe STORM will significantly contribute to our ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and make our roads safer for everyone.”
- Lt. Steven Johnson

Two Members of the Patrol Compete for TOP Trooper Honors

POV: Ellie

By Trooper Eleanore A. Ferrel (I)

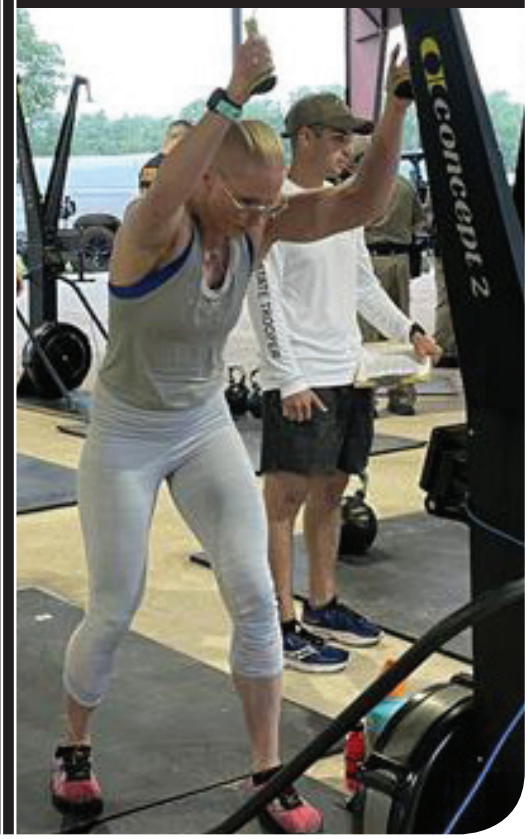
"Everything is bigger in Texas." This remains true in every aspect of the saying, as the Inaugural Top Trooper Competition, hosted by Texas DPS, reinforced. Encompassed into one facility, each major leg of the competition was performed within the area, allowing for the smooth progression of the week. With each event being a different core aspect of law enforcement, logistically the event was complex at best, and the challenge was met and exceeded by Texas. Overall, the event was an excellent opportunity to show the very best each state has to offer, all in a good-natured and friendly competition.

Throughout the entire competition, it was clear that the events were well planned, thought out, and left room for edits in case of unforeseen events, such as weather. Communication was clear and informative, guiding each state to their proper locations and each station prepared for the event to come. It was very clear that Texas DPS was used to hosting a competition of this size, and their professionalism shone throughout the entire week, as well as prior to and after the event. Rather than a stiff and regimented staff, the Texas DPS hosts were very welcoming, putting each competitor at ease with a friendly word of encouragement and introduction as simply a fellow law enforcement officer.

Each state that participated sent admirable competitors, with everyone working together to encourage the very best out of each person. Watching troopers from across the entire country, with different core operation guidelines, come together as a single law enforcement entity was extremely satisfying to see. Viewing the good sportsmanship of every officer there showcased that no matter where a trooper comes from, we are all cut from the same quality cloth — one that should be admired. Being paired with another state for each event fostered great comradery and by the end of the week it was clear the mutual respect each state had for each other was genuine, with connections that could span a career.

The events themselves pushed everyone to their max, with an array of different skills to be shown at each station. Every event had a purpose, a place in daily law enforcement function, and was not too ridiculous to come across as impossible or improbable. Realistic and down-to-earth, every skill demonstrated was achievable, with mere fractions of seconds separating the rankings.

In the future, Missouri should definitely encourage officers to participate in each year's competition, as the experience as a whole was one of the best weeks I've had in law enforcement.



POV: Graydon

By Sergeant Graydon L. Gaines (B)

From May 5th through May 9th, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to compete in the inaugural National Top Trooper Competition in Florence, TX, hosted by the Texas Highway Patrol. The competition was intense, consisting of three EVOC courses, three firearms courses, three grueling physical fitness events, an interview, and culminating with a team event comprised of driving, shooting, and physical fitness.

My hat goes off to the Texas Highway Patrol for their organization and exhaustive work put in to making the event a huge success. Officers from the California Highway Patrol to the New York State Police, and in-between, showed up and gave it their all. While competing against my peers from across the country was the primary purpose of the competition, I quickly learned I was also competing against myself. I was pushed to physical limits I have not otherwise experienced, which includes years of military training and four years of collegiate football. Perseverance and grit were an absolute must to finish the competition. Seeing officers embracing the physical agony together and then quickly licking their wounds to support other competitors, was more than motivating. The Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol, Chief Bryan Rippee, said it best, "That's what it's all about. Supporting each other to get through the hard times." He cited multiple instances where state agencies have come together to get through difficult times including our Missouri troopers assisting his agency at the southern border.

Officers were able to network and share stories of success and lessons learned. Often, we focus on the negative issues impacting our state and our agency. I can say with confidence that everything the Missouri State Highway Patrol is experiencing, other state agencies are going through the same, and then some. Unfortunately, sometimes it takes an event like this for officers (myself included) to realize how well things are going within our agency. We are very fortunate to have the support, funding, and equipment that we do. While Texas DPS may have all the fancy toys and top-notch physical fitness equipment, I learned they drive their patrol vehicles to 150,000 miles. I learned that, in Ohio, the courts will not grant search warrants for a blood draw in pursuit of a DWI case. While these are just two simple examples, I believe it accurately depicts a spectrum of issues and how the Missouri State Highway Patrol continues to excel.

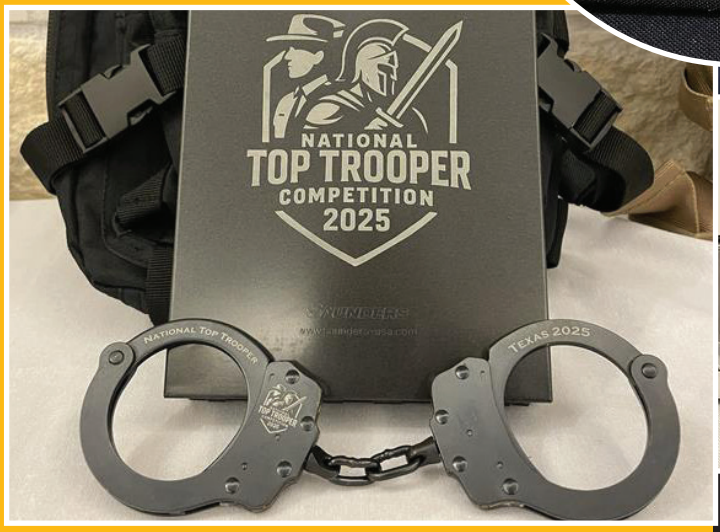
I strongly encourage anyone reading this to compete in the next state and/or national level Top Trooper Competition. Step outside of your comfort zone, push yourself to a new level, and compete. I promise you will not be disappointed you took the leap. Next year, the national event will be hosted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol. I have no doubt Ohio will host a great competition next year.

If you are interested in competing, my only advice to you would be to start preparing . . . yesterday! I have always thought of myself as a good shooter, a good driver, and in pretty good shape. To say I was humbled during this competition would be an understatement. If you think you are a good shooter, shoot more. If you think you're a good driver, sign up for any driving courses you can. If you think you're in good physical shape, push harder and run farther.

I will close with one of my favorite Theodore Roosevelt quotes, "It is hard to fail, but it is worse to have never tried to succeed." I hope to see our state level competition continue to grow as officers challenge themselves. We are surrounded by competition every day and undoubtedly it will remain constant until the day we retire.

"Master Sergeant Graydon Gaines, Troop B, and Trooper Eleanore Ferrel, Troop I, both competed with tenacity and resilience as they placed fourth on the last day's team competition. I was honored to make the trip in support of Graydon and Ellie. Watching them compete against and support their fellow state troopers was impressive to see. They should both be very proud of their accomplishments. I urge you to consider competing in next year's competition. Start preparing now! I promise, you won't regret it."

- Lt. Brian N. Anderson, Troop B



(I to r:) Program Assistant Sandy D. Branch, Program Assistant Gayla C. Jenkins, Program Assistant Krystal L. Conn, Program Coordinator Andrew Benner, Program Assistant Caitlin R. Whetsel, Sr. Program Specialist Pam Aberle, Program Assistant Kayla B. Stockman, Program Assistant Jaelin W. Harris, Program Assistant April D. Masterson, Program Assistant Geneva A. Heimericks and Program Assistant Michele J. Klebba

CJIS Division Hosts Sex Offender Registry Conference

By Captain Gara N. Howard (Q/CJIS) (now retired)

The Criminal Justice and Information Services (CJIS) Division Sex Offender Registry Unit hosted the Sex Offender Registry Conference at The Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks from August 19-21, 2025. The conference was attended by over 130 personnel from various law enforcement agencies, corrections, prosecutors and probation and parole officials within the state. The conference focused on relevant topics such as legal updates, Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), entering offenders and system enhancements. Speakers included those from the Patrol's legal counsel, Division of Drug and Crime Control, Crime Laboratory, CJIS, Probation and Parole, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services and the Attorney General.

Huber and Associates helped sponsor the conference and they provided a demonstration on the new Sex Offender Registry system currently being designed by their developers, in conjunction with CJIS Division staff. The new system's goal is to make the system more user friendly for registering officials and to have data meet all FBI requirements. The conference allowed the everyday users to see the new system, provide valuable insight on how the system works for their counties and to suggest improvements.

CJIS SOR Program Coordinator Andrew G. Benner and Supervisor Pam M. Aberle organized the conference and believed it was a success. Both agreed the accuracy, security and integrity of the Sex Offender Registry is paramount to public safety.

2025 marked the 30th anniversary of the Sex Offender Registry. The registry currently has over 18,500 offenders.

VIVAS AND REAM GRADUATE FROM FBI ACADEMY

By Dr. Mark G. Pottorff (Q/PIED)

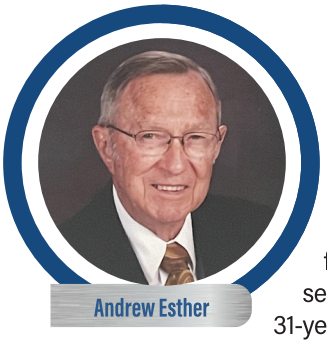
Lt. Brad Ream is seen here in front of the FBI National Academy flag.

Lieutenant Alexander R. (Alex) Vivas (Q/ESB) and Lieutenant Bradley D. (Brad) Ream (B) completed the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, on September 4, 2025. The class included members from law enforcement agencies from 20 countries, six military organizations, and four federal civilian organizations.

According to the FBI, "the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions."

FBI Director Kash Patel (second from left) stands with (I to r) Missouri Department of Public Safety Director Mark S. James, Lt. Alex Vivas, and Colonel Michael A. Turner. Director Patel delivered remarks during the ceremony.

Obituaries


Andrew Esther

ANDREW ELLIS ESTHER

Andrew Ellis Esther, 99, of Springfield, MO, passed away at his home on June 13, 2025. Born December 9, 1925, near Sleeper, MO, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, after which he graduated from Mizzou with a degree in agriculture. He served in the Korean War before beginning a 31-year career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol in Troop D, retiring as a sergeant in 1985. Andrew is survived by a daughter, two grandsons, and a great-granddaughter. To learn more about Andrew, visit the Klinger-Cope Funeral Home Website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Esther family.

Bill Johnson

BILLIE (BILL) JOHNSON

MSgt. Billie (Bill) Johnson, USAF Ret., 89, peacefully left his earthly home in Amarillo, TX, with family by his side, on the morning of July 12, 2025. Bill was born on September 7, 1935. He joined the Air Force in 1954, where he served with distinction for 20 years. He retired in 1974. Later, he worked toward becoming a small aircraft mechanic and then joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He retired from the Patrol in 1997.

Bill is survived by one daughter, one son, two granddaughters, one great-grandson, one sister, and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. To learn more about Bill, visit the Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Johnson family.

Allison Amend

ALLISON ANN AMEND

Allison Ann Amend, 58, of Holts Summit, MO, passed away July 22, 2025, at her home. She was born March 16, 1967, and was a 1985 graduate of Helias Catholic High School. She retired in May 2025 from the State of Missouri after 30 years of employment. She is survived by her husband, Randy, her mother-in-law, one brother, three sisters, three brothers-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews. To learn more about Allison, visit the Houser-Millard Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Amend family.

Larry Stephenson

LARRY EVERETT STEPHENSON

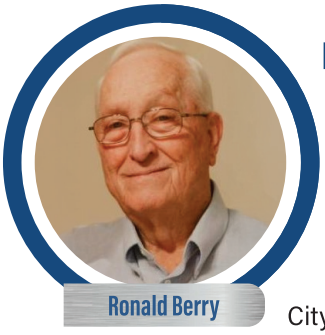
Larry Everett Stephenson, 81, formerly of Dean Lake, MO, passed away on July 23, 2025. Larry was born on March 29, 1944 in Brookfield, MO, and graduated from Northwestern High School in 1962. On September 30, 1964, Larry enlisted into the United States Army and was stationed in Germany for three years as an MP (Military Police Officer). After his active-duty service, Larry became a Missouri State Highway Patrolman. He also continued his military career by joining the Missouri National Guard, and on November 21, 1990, he was called up for active duty. He once again honorably served his country until July 20, 1991. In all, Larry served his country for 28 years.

Larry is survived by one son, one daughter, one brother, and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. To learn more about Larry, visit the Breshears Memorial Chapels website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Stephenson family.

Virginia D'Andrea

VIRGINIA GEORGETTE D'ANDREA

Virginia Georgette D'Andrea (nee Mellow), passed away on July 28, 2025, fortified with the sacraments of Holy Mother Church. Virginia served as a Missouri State Highway Patrol driver examiner supervisor for over 20 years. Virginia is survived by her devoted husband, Joseph, one son, one daughter, seven grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. To learn more about Virginia, visit the Kutis Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the D'Andrea family.


Ronald Berry

RONALD TIMOTHY BERRY

Ronald Timothy Berry, 87, of Doniphan, MO, passed away on August 11, 2025, at Gideon Care Center. Ronald was born on October 25, 1937. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a St. Louis City Police Officer before joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1967. He also spent many years in the Army National Guard 1138th Military Police Company. Survivors include one son, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. To learn more about Ronald, visit the Edwards Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Berry family.

Shirley Bracken

SHIRLEY ANN BRACKEN

Shirley Ann (Cramer) Bracken, 79, of Chamois, MO, passed away peacefully at home on August 18, 2025. She was born on June 2, 1946, in Chamois. She worked for the State of Missouri at the Department of Revenue for over 40 years, where she was a dedicated and valued employee. Shirley worked as a temporary professional for a number of years in the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Patrol Records Division. She is survived by her husband, David, one sister, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. To learn more about Shirley, visit the Millard Family Funeral Chapel website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Bracken family.

Douglas Storie

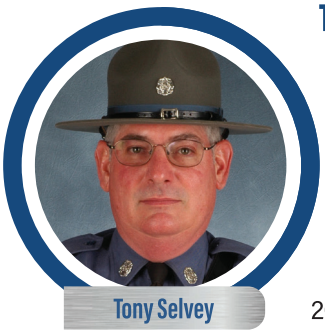
DOUGLAS GENE STORIE

Douglas Gene Storie, of St. Charles, MO, passed away August 20, 2025, at the age of 87. He was born June 29, 1938. Douglas proudly and honorably served in the Army National Guard and worked for 33 years with the Missouri State Highway Patrol in commercial vehicle enforcement. He proudly served his country on active duty during Desert Storm. Douglas is survived by his wife, Donna Jean, two daughters, one son, four grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and one brother. To learn more about Douglas, visit the Baue Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Storie family.

Virginia Fenton

VIRGINIA KAY FENTON

Virginia Kay Fenton passed away on September 7, 2025. Virginia dedicated 25 years to her career as a Driver Examiner with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, where she made history as the first female driver examiner in the state of Missouri. She retired from the department as a Driver Examiner Supervisor. Virginia is survived by two sons and three granddaughters. To learn more about Virginia, visit the Carson-Speaks Chapel website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Fenton family.


Tony Selvey

TONY D. SELVEY

Retired Sergeant Tony D. Selvey passed away on September 9, 2025. Son of retired Sergeant Donald E. Selvey, brother of retired Sergeant Timothy R. Selvey, and nephew of late retired Sergeant Ronald A. Selvey. An informal celebration of life was held on September 12, 2025. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Selvey family.

Paul Volkmer

PAUL VICTOR VOLKMER

Retired Lt. Col. Paul Victor Volkmer, age 97, of Jefferson City, MO, passed away peacefully September 11, 2025, at Arrowhead Senior Living Community. He was surrounded by his family. He was born on January 31, 1928, in Jefferson City. Paul was a 1946 graduate of St. Peters High School and shortly after joined the United States Marine Corps. He achieved the rank of corporal before receiving honorable discharge on June 5, 1948. Lt. Col. Volkmer joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol on October 14, 1949, as a member of the 11th Recruit Class. He devoted 38 years of service and protection to the State of Missouri, starting out as a patrolman and ending his distinguished career as Lieutenant Colonel.

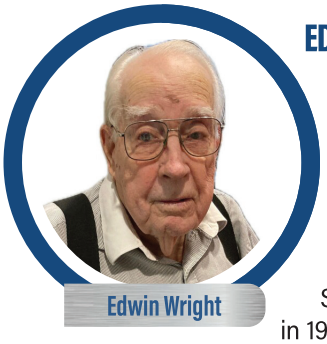
From prison riots to car chases, Lt. Col. Volkmer led those around him with grace, quiet strength, and courage. His soft, strong voice gave well-thought out replies to every question and his logic and knowledge of the law helped strengthen a law enforcement organization that continues to protect and serve the State of Missouri. His son Eric and grandson Paul followed in his footsteps in the Patrol and ensured that his legacy will be remembered for generations to come.

Paul served on the MASTERS (Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society) board from 1999 until his resignation in 2012. Following his resignation, he received unanimous election to emeritus status on the board – the first

director in history to receive that honor.

Paul is survived by his wife, Betty, four children, 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 2 sisters-in-law.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to MASTERS. To learn more about Paul, visit the Freeman Mortuary website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Volkmer family.



Edwin Wright

EDWIN EARL WRIGHT

Edwin Earl Wright, of Washington, MO, and formerly of Steelville, MO, passed away September 14, 2025, in Washington, at the age of 100 years, 9 months and 6 days. Edwin was born December 8, 1924, in Steelville, and graduated from Steelville High School in 1942. He joined the U.S. Army in 1943, where he served honorably in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Campaign and other locations until 1945. He was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and several other ribbons, service bars and buttons for his dedicated service. In October of 1949, he became an officer of the Missouri State Highway Patrol in Sikeston, MO. After a few years, he was promoted to sergeant, relocating to Piedmont, MO, and then lieutenant, moving to Poplar Bluff, MO. Edwin retired in 1980 after 31 years with the Highway Patrol and was the oldest living retired patrolman up until his death. Edwin is survived by his son, one daughter, six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren, one sister, two sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and many friends. To learn more about Edwin, visit the Britton-Bennett Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Wright family.

REMEMBER

WE REMEMBER.

PATROL HISTORY

By Cpl. E. M. Raub, Troop F

It is unusual that a coroner's jury gives a commendation, but, according to the Kansas City Journal Post, that is what happened in the shooting of Harold Thornburg.

Thornburg and his younger brothers were suspects in a series of bank robberies in Oklahoma and Kansas in the early thirties. A Kansas sheriff, acting on a tip, reported that Thornburg would try to pick up a letter at the post office in Hopkins, Missouri, in northern Nodaway County, after 6 p.m. On September 14, 1933. Sergeant J. S. Poage and Trooper P. M. Inman were among the officers who awaited the arrival of the fugitive.

As expected, Thornburg arrived in Hopkins, but drove past the post office. Apparently having seen a patrol car nearby, he sped out of town at a reported 70 mph. Poage and Inman immediately gave chase. About a mile out of town, Thornburg's car went out of control and into a ditch. He jumped from his car and fired at the approaching patrolmen. A shotgun battle ensued, in which Sergeant Poage was shot in the head and seriously wounded. Trooper Inman, an excellent marksman, returned fire and fatally wounded Thornburg. With other officers arriving to secure the scene, Inman took Poage by patrol car to a hospital in Maryville. Poage was given a 50-50 chance of survival, but later recovered from his wounds.

The coroner's jury released their verdict in the death: "We the jury find that Harold Thornburg came to his death by a gunshot wound fired by an officer in the discharge of his official duty in self-defense under fire, and this jury also finds that officers in the affair handled themselves in a heroic and faithful manner."

Sergeant Poage later became the first troop commander of Troop H; he died while employed by the Patrol in that capacity with the rank of captain on August 17, 1947.

Trooper Inman also was later a Troop H Commander. He retired from that position with a rank of captain on May 31, 1967. He died thirty days after his retirement.

(This article was printed originally in the October 1984 issue of the Patrol News. Captain Raub is now retired.)

MPERS HAS MOVED

NEW ADDRESS:
813 W Stadium Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Two Kansas City officers (far right) joined members of the Patrol's first bicycle patrol at the Missouri State Fair in 1995. Pictured from the Patrol are: Tpr. D.H. Dubbs (C), Tpr. R.L. Mast (G), Tpr. M.P. Mobley (I), Tpr. E. H. Gerber (E), and Tpr. N.D. Elfrink (B)

BIKE DETAIL MARKS 30 YEARS AT MISSOURI STATE FAIR

By Dr. Mark G. Pottorff (Q/PIED)

The Missouri State Highway Patrol introduced a new detail at the Missouri State Fair in 1995 — the Patrol's bike detail. Ten officers were assigned to the special detail, which used five specially equipped police bicycles to patrol the fairgrounds in Sedalia.

Prior to creating the fair's bike detail, members of the Patrol joined members of the Kansas City and St. Louis Police Departments' bike details for two years to learn about their work and to improve relations with the departments and the citizens of Kansas City and St. Louis. Two members of the Kansas City Police Department even joined the Patrol's new bike detail for their first year at the State Fair.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the bike detail, I reached out to some members of the 2025 group for their takes on their time at the fair. Troopers who work the bike detail change yearly, but some have had the opportunity more than once. Corporal Steven J. Force (H) has worked the bike detail six years, Troopers Clay J. Walker (C) and Cole P. Justice (H) have each been part of the detail for two years, and Tpr. Taylor A. Tarwater (F) worked the detail for the first time in 2025.

Members volunteer to be a part of the bike detail, and each of the troopers has his own reasons for volunteering. Tpr. Walker said, "What drew me to volunteer to work the bike detail is the opportunity it provides to explore the entire fairground, as opposed to being relegated to a single area." Tpr. Justice said that what draws him to the bike detail is that he "love(s) engaging with the public. Riding a bicycle at the fair allows you to cover more ground, see more sights, and visit with more Missouri citizens." Tpr. Tarwater's response was a bit more personal. He said, "I wanted the bike detail because I love to ride bicycles and I thought it would fun to be able to experience the fair on a bicycle." Cpl. Force explained that he lived and worked in the Sedalia area before joining the Patrol and "had walked much of the fairgrounds with small children before becoming a trooper. Riding is much better!" He agreed that the shorts and polo ensured "there was no question I wanted that assignment."

I asked the troopers about their favorite aspect of working the bike detail. Cpl. Force stated, "I love everything about bike patrol. I'm like a kid when I get on a bike, so I practice different balance and slow-riding skills and occasionally try to improve the few tricks I can do, when it's appropriate and safe, of course! I love the mobility of the bikes." Tpr. Justice emphasized his desire to stay busy and how the bike detail provides more chances to do just that. He said, "When you're on bike detail at the fair, you naturally get dispatched to more calls simply because you have a faster response time than the other troopers who are responding on foot." Tpr. Justice joked that getting to wear shorts and a polo (bicycle uniform) was also inviting during the hot August temperatures in Missouri. Tpr. Tarwater emphasized how being on the bike allows him to be more involved, stating, "Because the bike is so much faster, I got to be involved in basically every call that came out while I was on duty." During the 2024 State Fair, the bike detail got an upgrade to electric bikes, and Tpr. Walker noted that his favorite aspect was the opportunity to engage with the public and the fact that the bikes are now electric "sparks a lot of fun conversations."

Being on a bike during the fair offers many advantages for the troopers, but the most common thing stated by these troopers was the fact that they can respond much more quickly when needed in various parts

of the fairgrounds. Tpr. Walker described their mission as being, "for all intents and purposes, a 'Quick Response Team' for any potential threats to the fair or fair goers." Tpr. Tarwater concluded, "On the bikes, you can move around a lot faster than on foot, and you are very visible to the public as you move around the fairgrounds." Cpl. Force agreed that response time is quicker on the bikes, but he also saw the bikes, like the other specialty vehicles the Patrol displays at the fair, as "a great public relations tool. Whether it's a motorcycle, the new Mustangs, or SWAT vehicles, there are always people interested because that particular vehicle touches their personal interests."

What started in 1995 as the Patrol's newest special detail has now become an important part of the State Fair coverage. These troopers are highly visible to the public and have many opportunities to positively represent the MSHP. This visibility, according to Tpr. Justice, offers him and the other troopers avenues to "engage with the public, answer questions, and educate them about the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Missouri State Fair."

Tpr. Clayton "Clay" Walker (C)

Cpl. Joe Peart (I) and Tpr. Cole Justice (H) show off their caricature.

30 Year ANNIVERSARY

Tpr. Clayton "Clay" Walker (C)

Tpr. Taylor Tarwater (F)

Tpr. Clayton "Clay" Walker (C)

WITH *sympathy*

MVI Brandy J. Cadwallader (A) - Mother

Tpr. Christopher S. Riley (A) - Grandfather

Ret. Cpl. Jay K. Riley - Father-in-law

Ret. Chief DE Vicki K. Nelson - Father

Ret. Cpl. Terry R. Nelson - Father-in-law

Cpl. Lee E. Hughes Jr. (E) - Father

CVO Ryne S. Branum (E) - Father

Tpr. Luke N. Boff (D) - Father-in-law

Ret. DE Spvr. Jim Dodds - Wife

DE Linda R. Miller (E) - Father-in-law

Ret. Lt. Steven J. Frisbie - Brother & Brother-in-law

Sr. Auto/Marine Tech Nick W. Veltrop (Q/FFD) - Father

DE Spvr. Cassidy M. Sinden (I) - Grandmother

Ret. DE Spvr. Randy S. Markham - Mother

Ret. Sgt. David M. Markham - Mother-in-law

Ret. Telecomm. Ronald D. King - Mother

Comm. Op. Matthew S. Simonsen (C) - Grandfather

Ret. Sgt. Donald E. Selvey - Son

Ret. Sgt. Timothy R. Selvey - Brother

Ret. Sgt. Kevin G. Haywood Sr. - Daughter

Ret. Sgt. Eric K. Volkmer - Father

MSgt. Paul V.J. Volkmer (I) - Grandfather

Ret. CVO James R. Swader - Wife

123rd Class Assignment Locations

Troop A

Trooper Dallas T. Waller (Versailles, MO) - Zone 2, Platte County
Trooper Daniel D. Mullins (St. Joseph, MO) - Zone 3, Clay County
Trooper Blaine C. Stark (Boonville, MO) - Zone 4, Clay County
Trooper Jacob V. Dillon (Odessa, MO) - Zone 5, Ray and Carroll counties

Troop B

Trooper Tucker G. Hilliard (Weaubleau, MO) - Zone 8, Ralls and Marion counties
Trooper Tyler J. Davis (Cairo, MO) - Zone 10, Randolph and Monroe counties
Trooper Dakota L. Little (Shelbina, MO) - Zone 11, Randolph and Monroe counties

Troop C

Trooper John E. Childers (St. Charles, MO) - Zone 1, North St. Louis County
Trooper Devin A. Henson (St. Louis, MO) - Zone 1, North St. Louis County
Trooper Ellie R. Pritchard (St. Louis, MO) - Zone 8, St. Charles County
Trooper Charles C. Swederska (St. Louis, MO) - Zone 12, Jefferson County
Trooper Matthew B. Momot (Farmington, MO) - Zone 13, Jefferson County
Trooper Rothman R. Harris III (Farmington, MO) - Zone 16, Ste. Genevieve and Perry counties

Troop D

Trooper Kaley A. Ishman (Galena, KS) - Zone 13, Newton and McDonald counties
Trooper Zane T. Moore (Web City, MO) - Zone 7, Newton and McDonald counties

Troop E

Trooper Elijah M. Missey (Leadville, CO) - Zone 3, Wayne County
Trooper Tyler M. Deering (Park Hills, MO) - Zone 12, Madison and Iron counties
Trooper Benjamin W. Dillon (Poplar Bluff, MO) - Zone 11, Stoddard County

Troop F

Trooper Trent M. Johnson (Dozier, AL) - Zone 4, Audrain County
Trooper Preston D. Silvey (Versailles, MO) - Zone 16, Lake Ozark
Trooper Jaclyn P. Wilder (Branson, MO) - Zone 12, Osage and Gasconade counties

Troop G

Trooper Jared Q. Hummel (Willow Springs, MO) - Zone 6, Southern Howell and Oregon counties
Trooper Shaun T. Duggins (West Plains, MO) - Zone 3, Northern Howell and Shannon counties
Trooper Grant L. Plummer (Poplar Bluff, MO) - Zone 5, Douglas and Ozark counties

Troop H

Trooper Eric M. Sigman (Maryville, MO) - Zone 1, Holt and Atchinson counties
Trooper Joshua P. Koops (Denver, CO) - Zone 3, Harrison and Gentry counties

Troop I

Trooper Kyle T. Moore (Lebanon, MO) - Zone 8, Laclede County

Looking Back

IN THE PATROL NEWS

Onions Can't Hide Marijuana From Veteran Inspector

by D.G. Britton, Troop E CVE

Friday, May 5, 1995, at 6:25 p.m., Inspectors L.E. Masterson (W234) and B.D. Hay (W230) stopped a 1992 purple Kenworth tractor pulling a refrigerated box trailer driven by Guadalupe Romero at E-2-North on Interstate 55 near Steele, MO, for a routine check. Romero was found to have had his driving privilege suspended in California, and his medical certificate was expired.

Upon questioning by Insp. Masterson, Romero stated his load was coming from Dallas, TX, but his log book did not indicate he had been in Dallas. A check of Romero's bills showed that part of the load came from Mercedes, TX; another part from McAllen, TX; and the rest of the load came from Alamo, TX. Insp. Masterson asked Romero how he got the load if it was coming from Dallas but he hadn't been to Dallas. Romero paused for a few seconds; then first said his boss brought it to him from out of the valley; then said his boss brought it to the 76 Truck Stop in Pharr, TX, and that he and his girlfriend with her two kids drove to Pharr and picked it up at the truck stop. Romero did not have consent for his girlfriend and children to be in the truck.

At that time Sgt. R. Guilliams arrived at E-2-North. Upon continued questioning by Sgt. Guilliams and Insp. Masterson, Romero began to act nervous and cinging his hands, then began to sweat and pace back and forth. Consent to search the vehicle was obtained, and when Romero removed the padlock from the trailer doors, Insp. Masterson made his way to the front of the trailer. Watermelons were stacked on pallets almost to the ceiling of the trailer about two-thirds of the way to the front. The front part of the trailer contained cabbage, carrots, and onions stacked on the floor, with the onions in the nose of the trailer.

Insp. Masterson moved two or three sacks of onions and saw some black plastic under the onions. Under the black plastic was something wrapped in clear cellophane plastic with white powder over it. The package contained marijuana. Romero was placed under arrest, and the trailer was unloaded. In the nose of the trailer were 73 more bundles, containing a total of 1,639 3/4 pounds of marijuana.

Troop E CVE Inspector L.E. Masterson found these packages of marijuana under bags of onions, cabbage, and carrots.

September 1995/Patrol News 25

30 YEARS AGO

The September 1995 *Patrol News* included an article about CVE Inspectors L.E. Masterson and B.D. Hay discovering 1,639.75 pounds of marijuana near Steele, MO. The contraband drugs were found in a refrigerated box trailer which was hauling onions from Texas. The driver, whose license had been suspended in California, began to act nervous, sweat, and pace back and forth. A further inspection of the trailer revealed the drugs.

SOMETHING NEW!

FLASHING SIGNAL

MOVING RADAR - Corporal Harvey Obermueller of Troop A scans the highways as well as the speedgun II moving radar unit mounted on the dashboard of his patrol car. The new radar device enables Obermueller to clock the speed of vehicles as he cruises the roadways.

(Photograph courtesy of C. A. Howe, Boles County Headliner.)

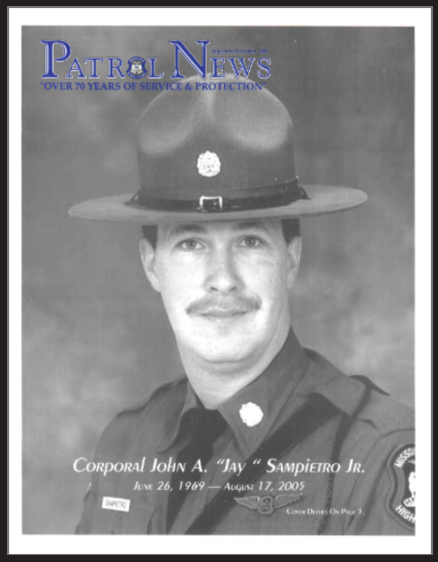
OUR SYMPATHY TO.....

BEARS EVERYWHERE

Page 3

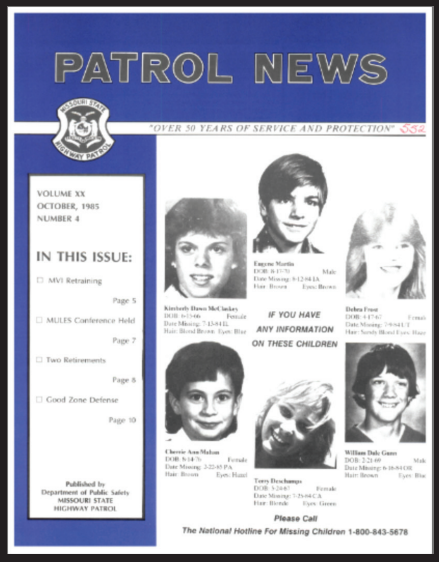
50 YEARS AGO

The September 1975 edition of the *Patrol News* featured a brief article highlighting the new Speedgun II, which had recently been introduced in Missouri. The Patrol was able to purchase 47 of the new radar units with federal funding. The new devices allowed a trooper to clock speeds of vehicles as the trooper was driving. An additional 52 units had already been ordered.



20 YEARS AGO

The cover of the September/October 2005 *Patrol News* featured Cpl. Jay Sampietro (E), who died in the line of duty on Aug. 17, 2005. The edition also included an article written by Sgt. Dennis W. Rainey (E); in the article, entitled, "My Friend Jay: Corporal Sampietro Remembered, Honored," Sgt. Rainey shared many stories of working with Cpl. Sampietro and of his impact on those around him.



40 YEARS AGO

The cover of the October 1985 *Patrol News* featured photos of missing children from the National Hotline for Missing Children. An article in the edition detailed the new Missing Children Unit within the Division of Drug and Crime Control. The unit became Missouri's central repository for information regarding missing persons, and a new law eliminated an automatic limitation for a missing person investigation.

10 YEARS AGO

The September/October 2015 Patrol News featured Tpr. James M. Bava (F) on the cover. Cpl. Bruce A. McLaughlin (F) wrote two articles for the edition; one described Tpr. Bava's memorial service and served as an obituary. The other article was a personal reflection on Tpr. Bava's time at the Patrol, describing him as "a loving, positive, humble servant."

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
General Headquarters
P.O. Box 568
1510 E. Elm St.
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0568

Sgt. Caleb M. Morgan (E) and Sgt. Richard A. Walker (E) pause for a photo while showcasing the marine division to the cadets at the 2025 Eagle Sky Youth Academy, where future leaders are challenged and inspired.